

spend quality time with family members, including her nine month old grandson, Ryan Rudy. While Vicky's career as a public servant has come to an end, the incredible impact she has made on her community will be felt for years to come.

I am proud to join her daughter, Lydia, her son, Garman, her colleagues, and her friends in thanking Vicky for her years of public service and wishing her the best as she begins her retirement.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL EDWARD DUNN

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, a constituent and good friend of mine, Paul Edward Dunn, was one of the most well respected lawyers across the entire state of Tennessee for over four decades.

He was one of the kindest, most honest, fair-minded men I have ever had the privilege to know, and I was deeply saddened to learn he passed away on Saturday.

When he wasn't serving our own community as a lawyer, as a member of various state bar associations, or as a special General Sessions judge, he was serving our Nation in the United States Marine Corps as a tank commander during the Korean War and later in the reserves.

Paul would have been married to his sweet wife Martha for sixty years on August third this year. Their devotion and love for each other was known well by many.

Paul and Martha had five wonderful children, but one in particular, Laura, holds a special place in my heart from years ago.

The first time I ran for Congress in 1988, Laura, who was in eighth grade at the time, came to help us every day after she got out of school, and even on the weekends.

I don't think many people worked for me as hard as she did. It seems like Laura's perseverance, work ethic, and soft heart were inspired by her dad, who possessed the same attributes.

Paul and Martha suffered a painful loss when Laura left this world at the young age of 22 due to her battle with lymphoma cancer. Now, we have the hope, through faith in God, that they have been reunited in Heaven.

Laura was such a wonderful, sweet, young woman full of enthusiasm for others.

While I am saddened by the loss of Paul, and the loss he and Martha experienced with Laura's passing, I certainly appreciate the kindness they showed me through the years.

While Tennessee mourns the loss of a great man, we remember the positive impact Paul made on our community, state, and our Nation.

SUPPORTING H.R. 4269—THE PUBLIC FUNDS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACT

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shed light on a major loophole in

our tax code that favors private schools at the expense of public schools. I have introduced H.R. 4269, The Public Funds for Public Schools Act which would close this loophole that allows the wealthy to profit off their "donations" to private school voucher organizations. In 18 states, laws have been passed allowing wealthy donors to claim tax credits for donations that go to private, often unaccredited, schools.

In these states, tax credits are awarded to taxpayers who donate to private school voucher organizations. At least eleven states offer a dollar-for-dollar credit, which allows wealthy donors to donate to Scholarship Granting Organizations without losing any money because the state ends up bearing the full cost of the donation. When combined with a federal charitable tax deduction, the dollar-for-dollar state credit ends up resulting in a taxpayer-funded profit for the so-called "donor."

Wealthy donors reap the benefits while our public-school children are left with substandard resources in some of the most impoverished areas of the country. This is a major loophole in our tax code. Not only are states reimbursing the wealthy rather than investing in public education, but federal dollars are being given to the wealthy at the blatant expense of public school children and educators. To be clear, the American taxpayer bears the cost of this lucrative tax shelter, and the American public is left with less funding for our public schools.

Mr. Speaker, I am a proud product of public schools. After the Brown v. Board of Education decision, small private all white academies started to pop up in many Southern states, including one in my hometown. Selma High School, where I graduated, provided me with a quality education. I was on the renowned Selma High School debate team and we won competitions across the state.

Over the decades, many "concerned" white parents have taken their kids out of public schools, sending them to the private academy across town. This process has led to re-segregation of schools in many parts of the South. After years of losing revenue to private schools, my old high school is deemed as "failing" today by the state of Alabama. Moreover, there aren't enough resources to provide debate and other extracurricular activities to the children.

State laws like the one providing a dollar-for-dollar tax credit to private academies have further exacerbated these trends. Until this year, the academies in my state didn't even have to be accredited to qualify for the voucher program.

Thirty-five states provided less overall state funding per student in the 2014 school year than before the recession in 2008. When the Republican tax bill was signed into law last year, deductions for state and local tax payments were capped at \$10,000, leaving some wealthier taxpayers looking for new and creative ways to reduce their tax liability. In response, more state legislatures are considering laws to pass this lucrative taxpayer-funded loophole.

H.R. 4269, The Public Funds for Public Schools Act, would remove this loophole by reducing the double deductions benefit on these donations, saving money that could be reinvested in public schools that are struggling to provide adequate resources for their students.

We have a responsibility to our children and their future to do the right thing. I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor H.R. 4269.

IN RECOGNITION OF SARA CATALÁN'S PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my heartfelt gratitude to my Deputy Chief of Staff, Sara Catalán for her 15 years of service to the people of my congressional district in Southern California.

Constituent Service is the heart of any successful Congressional office. Members of Congress are pulled in many different directions, and spend many weeks back in Washington, D.C. participating in committee activities and voting on the House floor. We must, therefore, rely heavily on a strong deputy to put together and manage a local staff that prioritizes the needs of our constituents. Sara has been an outstanding Deputy Chief of Staff and District Director, and I am indebted to her for her faithful service, good work, and perseverance. I have relied daily on her invaluable insights and sound judgment. Sara has been vital to my outreach and proactive engagement with the diverse communities of the district, ensuring that everyone is heard.

Constituents have often thanked me for the attention and assistance they received from my district staff, and I know I could have not done this outstanding work without Sara. Thanks to her, my district staff has always been hard-working and dedicated.

Sara's passion for public policy is evident to all who know her and who have worked with her. Over the years, her skills and insights have been invaluable when it came to the many issues affecting my district, and the greater public. She has been particularly engaged in my efforts to promote women's economic empowerment and protect and support victims of human trafficking. Under her leadership, my office has chaired a Human Trafficking Advisory Council, bringing together key players in law enforcement, nonprofits engaged in prevention and victim support, and victims' rights groups. I am proud of this work and the programs that came out of this Task Force, and I am proud of the work that Sara put into making it a success.

Over the course of the last 15 years, Sara has been an outstanding employee. She has also become a trusted friend. I have always relied upon her counsel and appreciate her forthrightness and her integrity. As she leaves my office and begins the next phase of her career working for a member of the California State Senate, I know she will continue to serve the people of California well.

I thank Sara for her service to the 39th Congressional District of California, and for her friendship.